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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

HOW TO ECONOMIZE SPACE.

PEOPLE who live in cities, where rents are high and apartments small, have to practice the art of making much out of little with a daily care and persistency of which those who live in the country or smaller towns have little knowledge.

Some bright writer has said that the great want of the women of the present day is "more pockets;" to this I would add more closets. The woman who said to her husband, "all closets," when asked by him how he should build the new house of which they had talked, echoed the unspoken thoughts of nine-tenths of the housewives in the country.

It is very trying to one's temper and nerves to spend time and money on the buying and making of new gowns, only to have them half ruined by being packed away in trunks or utterly crushed from the weight of other garments in small closets or wardrobes.

A house full of large, roomy closets is the delight of a woman's heart, but not having these she may find an excellent make-shift in the large wooden boxes which take up so little room at the foot of the bed.

For two dollars a carpenter will make a box five or six feet long, according to the space which it is to occupy, thirty inches wide and twenty-two inches deep; good strong casters on the corners, and the lid put on with hinges. An old comfort, cut a little smaller than the lid and fastened here and there with tacks, will make a cushion for the top. The entire box may be upholstered with cretonne or self-colored carpet, which costs but very little, and wears exceedingly well. The fullness of the cretonne may be laid in box plaits, fastened top and bottom, but the carpet should be tacked on plain. Use a gimp and large, ornamental brass nails to cover the edges. A strip of coarse worsted fringe may be put around the bottom if desired. Some ladies use it around the lid as well, but as it is always being shut in, the box looks better without it.

You have now a receptacle long enough to hold dresses without folding them, which is the main point in keeping them fresh. So deep is the box that quantities of woollens may be packed away for the summer and still leave room for several dresses. One lady I know has her boxes made long enough to hold her hand-boxes at one end.

Another lady wishing to use her box for a lounge had a curving arm put on one end and used a small mattress for the cushion, and covered it with handsome cretonne. For her pillows she used two bed pillows, gathering one end of each tightly together with strong thread and a few stitches. The cretonne covers were made twelve inches longer than the pillows, the open end faced with plain goods; the pillows were slipped in and tied like a bag of meal. Of course it was a little trouble to remove the pillows when wishing to open the box, but the comfort of having a place to put things more than compensated for that.

The same lady had in each of her sleeping-rooms a small box on casters, upholstered with cretonne, to hold boots, shoes and slippers, and the members of her family declared they were the most convenient articles of furniture in the house.

A bed-trunk is another luxury which no woman cramped for room can afford to be without. They may be made to fit the space under any bed, usually about forty-two inches long, eight inches deep, and thirty-six inches wide—long, low and flat, queer-looking trunks. Yes; but they are very convenient for holding gentlemen's clothes, and the hundred and one things for which there is no daily need. The trunks are common wooden trunks, covered with cloth—as they are not used for traveling they need not be so well made—with casters, two locks, and braces to hold up the broad cover when opened, and cost only four dollars. In using one of these trunks it is well to pack things carefully in paper to prevent the gathering of dust, though they are so well made there is not much danger of that.

Another device for making space is that of having skeleton shelves put up each side of a doorway, with a long shelf across the top. This provides a place for extra books, china and all sorts of *tric-a-brac*. If these shelves are placed about a wide doorway, where there are portieres, the effect is exceedingly good.

STILL ANOTHER USE has been found for glass. This time it has been appropriated by an ingenious agriculturist for the purpose of drying fruit. Trays are constructed, covered with glass, holes are made at each end for ventilation, and a pivot arrangement for turning the loaded trays so as to catch the sun's rays.



CACTUS, BY HARRY A. DEANE.